

Media Release
January 18, 2002
Director Larry Welch
KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Report Issued By Americans For Gun Safety, Washington, D.C., January 16, 2002

The KBI is, of course, concerned with any illegal possession of a firearm. We are also concerned about the accuracy of captioned report and we are puzzled regarding the source of the information the report cites.

The authors of the report did not contact our staff and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms disavows statistics attributed to them in the report about Kansas.

And the FBI advised us that they were unaware of the report until they started receiving calls from the various state repositories. Moreover, the FBI commented that missing dispositions are a national problem not just a Kansas problem and the low percentage of questioned firearm transfers, in relation to total sales is phenomenal.

In respectful correction of the report, let me make the following, hopefully-clarifying points:

- (1) All KBI arrest records, felonies and misdemeanors (A&B) alike, are indeed automated. (Even those dating back to our creation in 1939);
- (2) All convictions and final dispositions are automated back to 1996 and all current submissions to us are being automated as received;
- (3) Approximately 50% of all convictions and final dispositions (436,349 of 880,964) are automated. (Even back to 1939 again, although the ongoing automation of past records is weighted toward the more recent years, for obvious reasons.);
- (4) The typical KBI response, of which we've done 310,618, since Nov. 1998, is not only within 3 days, it is almost always a "same-day" response;
- (5) All protection from abuse orders, thanks to legislation sponsored by Attorney General Carla Stovall, are computerized and entered into the NCIC system.

And let me say that the only delay problem we're aware of in responding to Brady "hits" and/or inquiries within 3 days is in those situations where local Kansas agencies have not provided to the KBI the final disposition, e.g., prosecution, non-prosecution, dismissal, conviction, etc., of the charges submitted. Running those old dispositions down may take longer.

Illegal gun sales are a concern for us. So are inaccurate reports about illegal gun sales.